World Bank Loan

382. SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank and Asian Development Bank are keenly interested in providing fresh line of credit to India for power sharing;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to accept the offer to meet the electricity shortage in the country particularly in Northern States; and

(c) if so, the quantum of funds proposed to be provided to India by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) ADB have offered Regional Technical Assistance (RETA) to finance a feasibility study regarding possibility of electricity exchange between Indian and Bangladesh.

A proposal for sale of power from Pakistan to India has been received. Some World Bank funded power projects are under implementation in Pakistan. The last unit of 1300 MW World Bank funded. Hub River Power Project near Karachi has been commissioned. With this and other projects becoming operational, Pakistan is likely to have surplus power. So far, no feasibility study of the sale of power from Pakistan to India has been undertaken to decide about the exact quantum of the power available. The matter is presently limited to the exchange of basic technical information relating to matters such as minimum quantum of power guaranteed, number of power feeding points to India and their proposed locations, compatibility of power systems in India and Pakistan, cost of electricity, power purchase agreements, etc.

[Translation]

Increase in Fuel Charge

383. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board has increased the fuel charge adjustment amount from existing rate of 51 paise to 80 paise per unit;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the above increase is being protested at wide scale; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board has finalised Fuel Cost Adjustment Charges for the quarter October–December, 1996 at 79.83 Paise per unit as against the Fuel Cost Adjustment (FCA) charge of 50.91 paise per unit for the previous quarter ending September, 1996.

(b) The reason for increase in the Fuel Cost Adjustment (FCA) charge as mentioned above is attributed to increase in fuel cost & fuel related cost, for the fuel delivered at bunkers of thermal power stations and reduction in gross heat value in kilo calories of the fuels delivered at thermal power stations because of climate condition of monsoon period.

(c) Majority of the consumers on whom fuel cost adjustment charge is leviable, have paid amount of FCA @ 79.83 paise per unit. However, a few consumers & their associations have protested against above increase and out of them some consumers have filed writ petitions in High Court at Jabalpur challenging the increase where the matter is pending.

(d) As per the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948. the responsibility of fixing electricity rates including fuel cost adjustment charge lies with the respective State Governments/SEBs.

[English]

Setting Up of Transmitters in U.P.

384. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :
DR. BALIRAM :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the telecast/broadcast of Doordarshan/ AIR programmes are not received clearly in some parts of Uttar Pradesh:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken